

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Replace the paragraph on page 1, between lines 22-27 of the specification with the following:

~~That object is achieved in accordance with the features of the independent claims 1, 11, 12 and 13.~~ In accordance with the invention, the switching transformer comprises a second control loop. By means of the second control loop, the switching transformer can be adjusted to individual lamp conditions, a tendency of a plasma arc within the lamp to jump can be reduced, the electrode gap can be controlled and hence lumen output and the service life of the lamp are improved.

Replace the paragraph on page 7, between lines 12-21 of the specification with the following:

The first sample-and-hold stage 53 is thus triggered every time the switch 22 is switched on and therefore stores the value corresponding to the voltage value 99, while the converter current

95 reaches the minimum value 96. The second sample-and-hold stage 56 is triggered when the switch 22 is switched off and stores the value corresponding to the value 100, while the converter current 95 reaches the maximum value 97. The adder 61 totals the two voltage values corresponding to the voltage divider 50, 51, and so a signal corresponding to a mean value can be tapped off at the output 64 at each time $t_{e2} - t_{3/}$, t_4 , t_5 and t_6 . This signal can then be used at any of the times $t_3 - t_6$, that is, asynchronously, and with any sampling rates. A low-disturbance measurement of the voltage at the capacitor 25 is thus achieved here, and a measured value can be tapped off without disturbances through the switching transformer 2.